

BULLETIN No. 2

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FIELD WORK, 1922

INTRODUCTION. During the Summer and early Autumn of this year the British School has been enabled to devote itself to field work. In the first place a preliminary visit was paid to the sites of Amman, Jerash (Gerasa) and Umm Keis (Gadara) in Trans-Jordania. Successful photographs were obtained of the standing monuments and of interesting architectural details. Measurements were taken of some classical buildings at Amman and at Jerash which seem, hitherto, to have received inadequate attention. We particularly admired the proportions and detail of the hexastyle temple which faces the rising sun from a knoll overlooking the southern entrance to Jerash. Mr. Ernest Richmond, F.R.I.B.A., who was a member of the expedition, is devoting his leisure moments to working out measured drawings of this and other monuments, and we hope to publish these in an early Bulletin.

During part of August we camped on Carmel and began to explore the ridge which lies between the Plain of Esdraelon and the Sea-coast. We examined and photographed the mounds of Tell Keimun (Jokneam), Abu Shushah, Tell El Mutesellim (Megiddo) and Tell Ta'anak, which indicate the Canaanitish frontier along the south-west edge of the Plain, and also those of Khurbet Belameh (Ibleam) and Tell Dothan. We traversed the pass of Wady Milh, starting from Keimun at the foot of Carmel, and emerging opposite Tanturah which was visited and inspected; also the historic pass of the Wady Arah, with Tell Arah in the middle of its course and Tell El Asawir at its mouth. We should like to include in this survey an exploration of the less frequented tracks and of the Sahel El Arâbeh which leads westward from the plain of Dothan, so as to be able to publish a complete description of this important area.

In the cooler weather of September, we began a systematic exploration of the Plain of Acre, of which little has been recorded. In this work we had a special objective, namely, the location of 'Harosheth of the Gentiles,' and to this end two Foundation Members of the School, Mr. T. W. Woodsend and Lt.-Col. Sir J. Reynolds, had contributed a special fund, so that we might test the result of our investigations with the spade. We devote this Bulletin to a description of the preliminary results, which are of immediate interest, while providing us with welcome new material for comparative study. It will be seen that Tell Harbaj, which commands the opening of the pass connecting this Plain with that of Esdraelon, seems to fulfil the conditions indicated in the fourth chapter of the 'Book of Judges' and the 'Song of Deborah' for its identity with Harosheth.

During October the Assistant Director devoted himself to the researches of the Palestine Exploration Fund in the vicinity of Gaza. Here, again, the first results are of striking interest, and they will be published in the Quarterly Statement of that Society.

Mr. Fitzgerald, first student of the School, in addition to assisting in the field work during September and October, spent the months of May to August at the excavations of Beisan. Dr. Fisher, who directs this work on behalf of the University Museum of Pennsylvania, is a master of archaeological method, and this privilege is greatly appreciated. By his courtesy we are able to include a general outline of his results in this Bulletin.

GEOGRAPHY OF THE PLAIN OF ACRE (S.)

With a Map and Photographs [Pl. II].

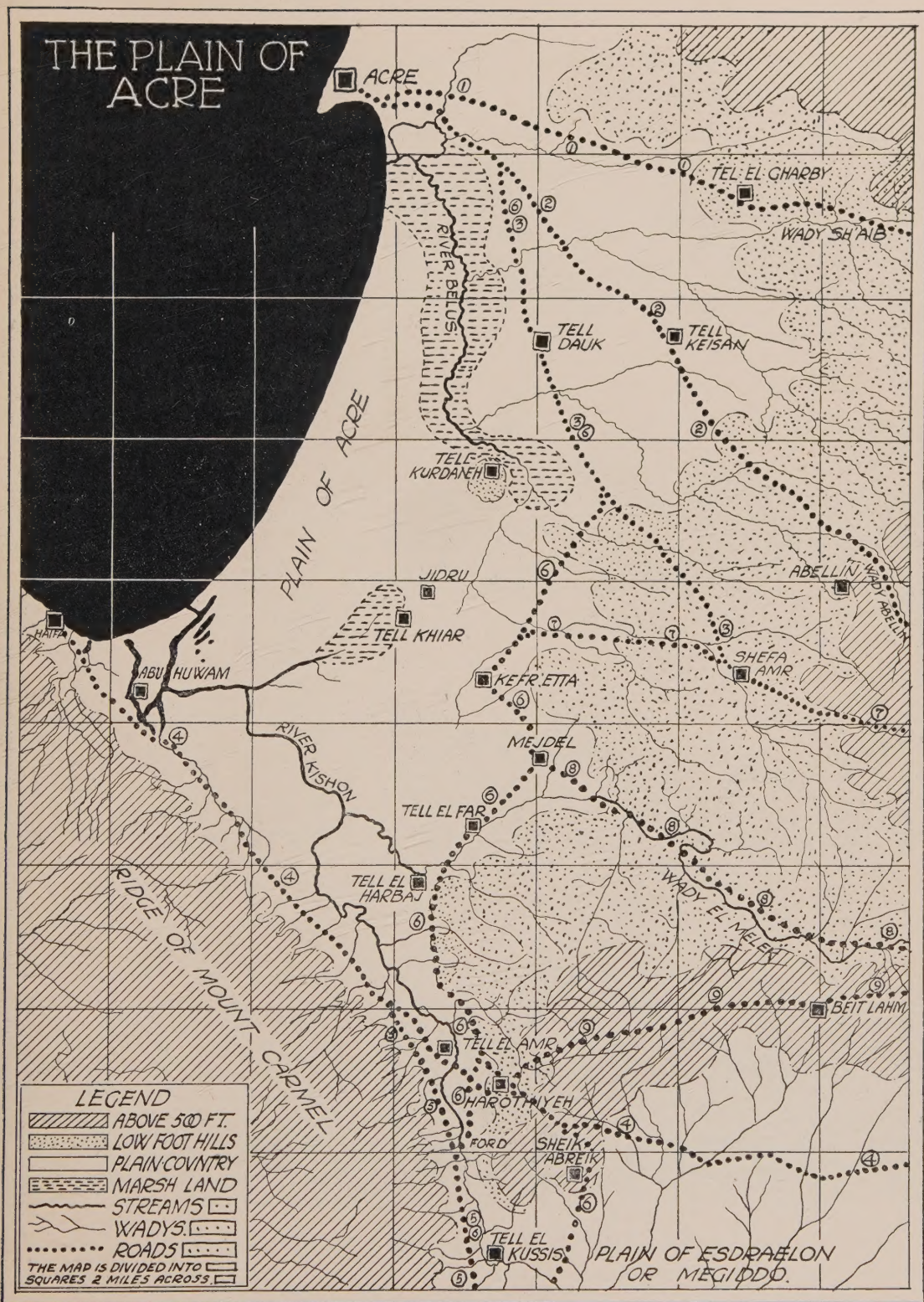
The Plain of Acre extends from Ras En Nakura in the North to Carmel on the South. In shape it may be described as like the capital letter 'B', the coast line forming the vertical stroke, and the hill country of Upper and Lower Galilee rounding off the Plain into the two curves, while sending to the coast approximately in the centre a spur which divides the Plain into two almost distinct sections. The town of Acre situated at this central point draws, as it were, the two parts of the Plain together, and affords a meeting place for the streams of commerce which converge upon it both by land and sea. Its principal exports to-day are, as they have probably always been, grain from the Hauran and olive oil from the Galilean hills; and it is important in this connection to remember that Akka had enjoyed centuries of prosperous existence before the relatively new port at Haifa began to steal away its trade.

The southern half of the Plain (the lower loop of the 'B') is that to which the School's work this season was confined; and all that follows refers exclusively to this, which we call the southern Plain. It is divided by a low spur thrown out westwards from the hills near Shefa Amr, down which run several water courses to join the River Belus. The largest Tell on the Plain, namely, Keisan, is invisible from Khurbet El Burj and from the small mud village of Jidru to the South. On the other hand Tell Kurdaneh, around which the Belus river bends, standing on higher ground opposite the western extremity of this spur, overlooks both the areas into which the southern Plain is thus resolved.

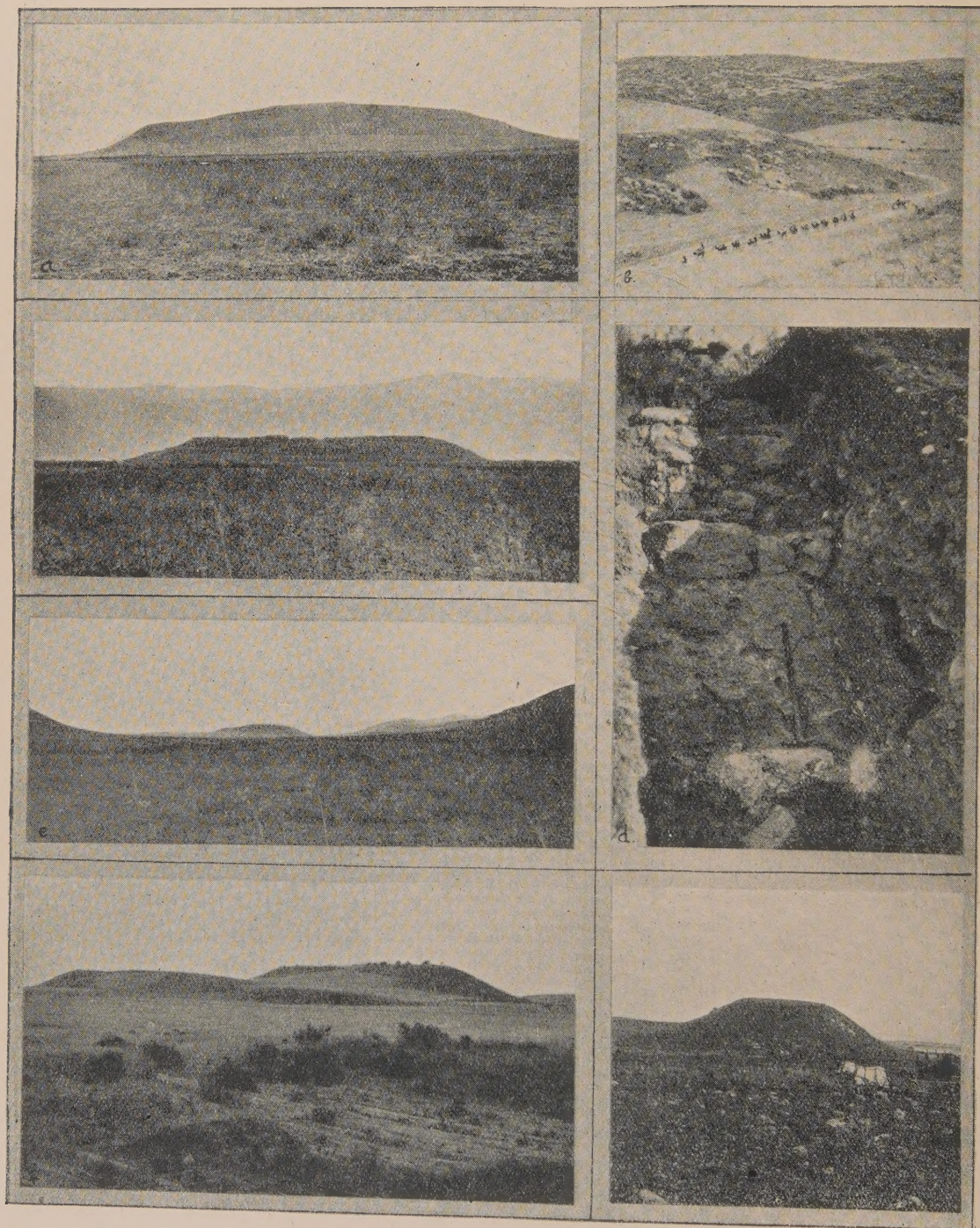
The northern section, bounded on its South by this ridge and the lower course of the Belus itself, forms an open but slightly undulating plain, crossed by three main caravan routes which diverge from Acre. That furthest North [No. 1 in the Map] runs along the edge of the foothills which form our northern boundary, and passing by Tell El Gharby enters the hill country by the Wady Sh'aib. Its further course need not here detain us. (See P.E.F., Q.S., 1888-9). The central route [2] leads by the imposing Tell of Keisan [Pl. II, a], enters the hills by the Wady 'Abellin [Pl. II, b], and reaches by easy gradients the inland Plain of El Buttauf, at the entrance to which stands Tell Bedeiwiyeh. The last and southernmost track [3] passes by the low Tell and mud village of Da'uk, and crosses the southern ridge obliquely to Shefa Amr.

The southern section presents a different aspect: the low ridges give way almost entirely to a broad expanse of alluvial soil. Two miles south of the marshes round Tell Kurdaneh another source, this time a belated tributary of the Kishon, rises near Tell Khiar, and flowing southwards along the eastern extremity of the sand dunes reaches the parent river little more than a mile above its mouth. Another tributary of the same river rises at Tell El Harbaj in the south-east corner of the Plain, and this joins the Kishon at a point a mile and a half away. Lastly, the Kishon itself adds a final barrier to the South of our area, effectively separating Haifa and Carmel from the Plain of Acre. Such East and West tracks as cross this southern section, depending on either Summer fords or modern bridges, diverge from Haifa through Jidru and Kefr Etta and meet once more at Shefa Amr. These routes are all of subsidiary importance and seem only to serve the local needs of the nearest villages. The modern road from Nazareth [4] which descends from the foothills at Harithiyeh, crosses the Kishon almost at once by a permanent stone bridge. But the main caravan route from the South and East [5], after collecting the numerous cross tracks in the Plain of Esdraelon, emerges upon the single route which, skirting the foot of Carmel, keeps throughout to the South of the river and so avoids the crossing. The Kishon, in fact, before entering the narrow passage to the Plain of Acre, unites the many unseen tributaries of the Muketta that water the Plain of Esdraelon. The last ford is in the Pass itself. Thereafter the river becomes deep and relatively broad; its banks are for the most part steep and slippery, and during the rains the torrents from Carmel swell it to overflowing, so that no further crossing is possible except in the driest weather. So level also is the Plain that towards its mouth the waters stagnate, resulting in large areas of swamps, amidst which the low mound of Tell Abu Huwam alone marks a place of ancient habitation. It was this potent factor, doubtless, that restrained the development of Haifa as a port; and so is explained at the same time how, for a double reason, namely, the obstacle itself and the lack of objective which resulted, nature's channel of communication with Galilee and Damascus by the Wady El Melek, which drains the Sahel El Buttauf, has never been developed as a highway, but remains to this day a simple and scarcely used track.

In ancient times, while the maritime supremacy of Akka was as yet unchallenged, the principal road in this southern section [6] ran not West and East, but South and North. Leaving Esdraelon by the ford in the Pass or by the higher ground near Sheikh Abreik, it sought the Galilean foothills



THE PLAIN OF ACRE AND ITS COMMUNICATIONS



ANCIENT SITES IN THE PLAIN OF ACRE, Etc.

- a.* Tell Keisan from the N.W.
- c.* Tell El Harbaj, with Carmel.
- e.* The pass to Esdraclon, with Tell El Kussis.
- f.* Tell Amr from the S.E.
- b.* Caravan in the Wady 'Abellin.
- d.* Tell El Harbaj: City Wall of the Late Bronze Age.
- g.* Tell El Kussis from the West.

below Harithiyeh, and, skirting these, passed by El Harbaj, Mejdol, Kefr Etta and Daûk to Acre or the North. Branches from this main route lead eastwards, as already noted, from Kefr-Etta by Shefa Amr [7], and from Mejdol by the Wady El Melek [8]. A third [9] leads north-eastwards from Harithiyeh, where it leaves also the modern road, heading by a steep gorge for Beit Lahm (Bethlehem) and Seffurieh.

At first glance there might appear to be one central point on which all the communications of the southern plain converge. This point is Shefa Amr, a well-built and imposing town, perched on an eminence at the head of a charming recess in the Galilean hills. But Shefa Amr commands no pass; on the contrary the hills behind are lofty and precipitous, and offer no natural channel of communication with the East. It has required the skill of the engineer, alike in Roman as in modern times, to make this route practicable for active commerce. The key of the whole of this district lies not here, but to the East at Tell Bedeiwiyeh in the Sahel El Buttauf. This ancient site commands one of the great sea-roads of antiquity [2] along which caravans still pass from Acre by Tell Keisan eastward through the Wady Abellin, and so to Semakh. On it converge the tracks from Seffurieh (and so from Nazareth), from the Wady El Melek, from Shefa Amr, and from the Buttauf itself. No estimate of the historical geography of this area can be regarded as complete which does not give its full value to this pregnant fact.

It is evident already from the foregoing physical considerations that the Plain of Acre can have no separate history of its own. Acre itself, while providing the commercial focus of the road system that necessarily traversed this plain, does not dominate the situation. On the other hand, its position on an isolated beak of land, with its converging roads and narrowing communications, was primarily defensive. Its outlook was towards the sea, not inland. It could only offer protection to the Plain by an extensive occupation of the eastern hills, to which this lies exposed. Here is no 'Shephelah' to form a frontier, a boundary between hills and plain, such as gave to Philistia its separate history; nor any ridge like Lebanon that protected Phoenicia, while denying to it expansion towards the East. The Plain of Acre belongs to Galilee, and the power that held the hills controlled the plain. There were, indeed, periods when that power was maritime, as when Phoenicia extended as far as Joppa. But, in fact, the sovereignty of Tyre tended to disappear at Ras El Nakura, where the protective wall of Lebanon ends. For Phoenicia to hold the ports and coastal towns of Akka and Achzib, as she held once Dora and Joppa, was natural and relatively easy: but to occupy the Plain was probably more troublesome than profitable. Nor was it necessary. All she required was the establishment of peaceful relations with the interior, together with the power of protecting her landward front against sporadic raids. Her commerce was of mutual interest, alike to her as to the merchants of Palestine and Damascus, and so established the one; while her geographical situation and maritime power secured the other. In any case the history of the plain is inseparable from that of the hills and valleys which bound it on the East.

To-day the southern plain is practically deserted. Those who cultivate or feed their flocks upon it have tended more and more to seek refuge from the scourge of malaria in the foothills. In the northern section, Tell Keisan, which marks a town that flourished and prospered for two thousand years at least, now rises solitary and imposing, amid an area that boasts not a single habitation. In the southern section Tell Harbaj attracts first attention [Pl. II, *c*]. This mound, still occupied, indeed, by a few fever-stricken villagers, preserves little trace of its former importance, which is amply attested, however, both by its position and the results of our examination. Situated at the narrowing of the passage between the Galilean hills and the Kishon, it was the veritable guardian of the Plain. Our section cut in its slopes gives proof of a continuous occupation throughout the Bronze Age, towards the close of which the city was encircled by a protective wall of stone. [See Pl. II, *d* and the Report in this Bulletin, with Plates III and IV.] Its history seems to have terminated, so far as antiquity is concerned, with the close of the Bronze Age, the late Canaanite period, about 1200 B.C. With very little debris of later periods on the top, and few modern houses, this Tell presents a unique opportunity for investigating by excavation the culture of the Bronze Age. In particular there is a ready chance of throwing direct light upon the civilization of the Canaanites, which is already distinguished archaeologically by its Mediterranean relations, and as known to us from contemporary Egyptian sources attained a high level in the development of its characteristic arts. The special interest of this ancient site must in any case arrest attention; for it is the nearest upon the northern bank of the Kishon to Harithiyeh, the name of which reflects, if it does not perpetuate, the historic Harosheth though the village itself is modern. Tell Harbaj is not, however, the nearest site: on the southern bank of the river, close under Harithiyeh, stands Tell Amr, in a position of tactical importance which invites a brief description.

The narrow passage between Carmel and the foothills of Harithiyeh, through which the Kishon finds its way from the Plain of Esdraelon to that of Acre is practically level and free from obstacles [see Pl. II, *e*]; it is consequently the natural channel of communication between the two plains. With a length of more than four miles it nowhere attains a mile in width, while for some two miles after leaving Esdraelon it narrows to five hundred yards. Tracks pass along both banks, and a ford is found at a bend just under Harithiyeh. At either end of the narrower reaches of this pass, some three miles apart, and in full view of each other, two mounds rise like sentinels, Tell El Kussis and Tell Amr, the former on the right bank and the latter on the left [Pl. II, *f*, *g*]. They are both partly natural formations, crowned with the characteristic indications of ancient occupation. It might reasonably be supposed that they would represent the defences of the pass throughout a long period of history. But the suggestion proves to be illusory, as the further reports in this Bulletin will show. Tell El Kussis was occupied only during the earliest phase of the Bronze Age (c. 2000 B.C.), while the development of Tell Amr was confined entirely to the Early Iron Age (c. 1000 B.C.), with the exception of some traces of Arab habitation. Thus during the whole period of Canaanitish domination the pass was left without special protection; nor does the site of Harithiyeh upon the foothills present any traces of antiquity. The result of this examination is very striking. Protected rather than menaced by the heights of Carmel, this pass belonged by nature and by right to the Galilean side. It linked the two plains together; and during the period of alliance between the Canaanites and the Goyim of Galilee it determined the course of their common frontier, which passing along the south-western ridge of Esdraelon by Taanak and Megiddo to Jokneam, skirted the protective wall of Carmel until it reached the Kishon, which it then followed to the Sea.

The following is a brief summary of the results of our examination, or excavation, of the several Tells.

(a) *Tell Keisan*. A prominent isolated artificial mound [Pl. II, *a*], 1,000 paces around the bottom of the slope: about 25 m. high. Signs of two entrances, N. and S., and suggestion of enclosing walls around the middle and upper slopes. Pottery fragments on the surface and slopes. range from the middle Bronze Age to Roman.

(b) *Tell El Far*. A small knoll like mound, possibly partly natural. Pottery of the Iron Age (Geometric) and Graeco-Roman period found on the surface.

(c) *Tell Harbaj*. Low level mound with steep slope: about 200 m. across the top, and 12 m. high. Trenching from bottom to top on the western face showed continuous occupation throughout the Bronze Age, with a strong encircling wall of the later phase. No traces of occupation during the Early Iron Age. [See Report 2 and Plates II, *c*, III and IV.].

(d) *Tell Amr*. A natural low ridge about 250 m. in length with an artificial mound on the northern end. [See Report 3 and Plates II, *f*, V and VI, *a*]. Occupation from the Early Iron Age (Geometric) c. 1000 B.C. until Hellenistic times c. 300 B.C.

(e) *Tell El Kussis*. A small, steep Tell, mostly natural, with traces of occupation during the earliest phase only of the Bronze Age. [See Report 4 and Plates II, *e*, *g*; V and VI, *b*].

(f) *Tell Bediwiye*. A great mound dominating the several approaches to the Sahel El Buttauf. Abundant traces in pottery fragments and bronze of extensive occupation during the Bronze Age. Superficial observation indicates a subsequent gap until Hellenistic times, when the occupation was, however, sparse. Nothing of Greek or Roman periods. A mediaeval fortress upon the broad summit.

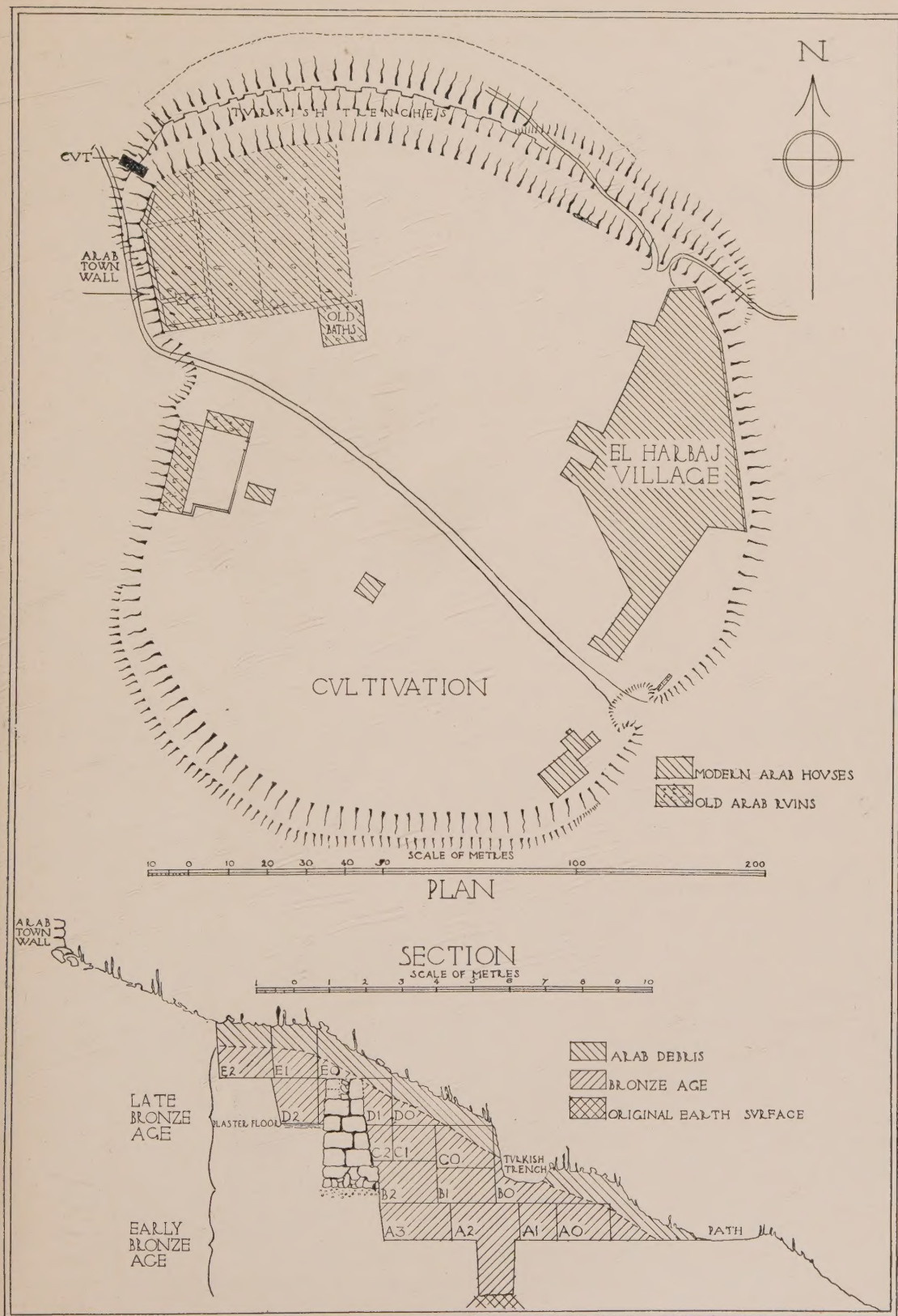
The Map of the Plain of Acre has been prepared by Mr. A. St. B. Harrison.

The Plans of Tell Harbaj and Tell Amr [Plates III and V] by Mrs. A. C. Holliday.

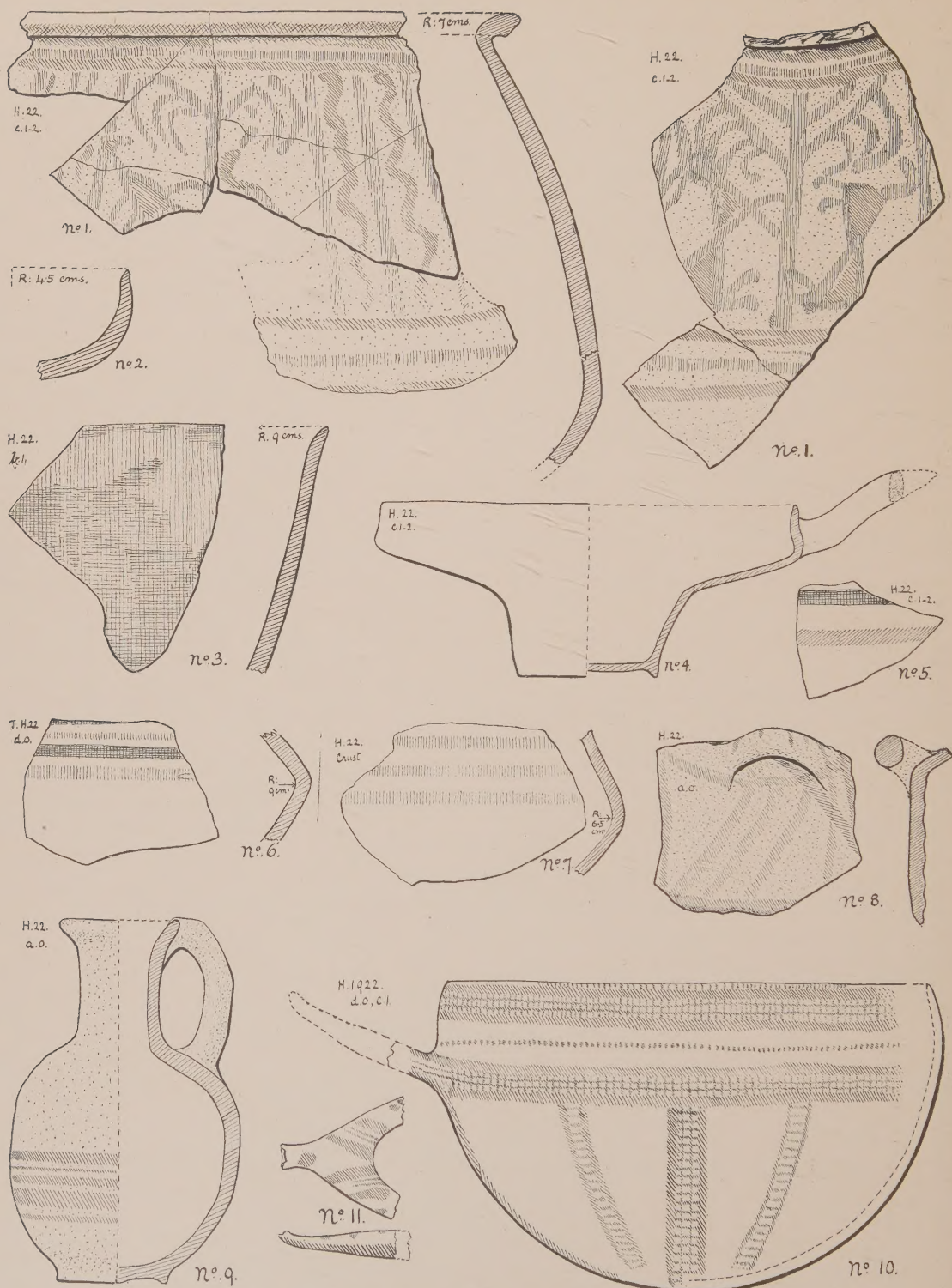
TELL EL HARBAJ

(With Plates III and IV.)

This Tell for reasons which afterwards become apparent nowhere attains a height of more than 15 metres. Its general features can be inferred from the sketch plan [Pl. III]. The summit is occupied in the north-west corner by the ruins of an Arab castle or public building and on the East and South-East by the modern Arab village which extends across the old south-east gateway. The rest of the surface with the exception of the few buildings indicated in the sketch is given up to the sparse cultivation of tobacco.



TELL EL HARBAJ: PLAN AND SECTION



The slopes are steeper on the West, North, and East than on the South. On the North is traced a line of Turkish trenches now thickly overgrown with thistles and other rank vegetation. Their 'siting' is of interest as indicating the importance of the position: surrounded on all sides but the east by marshes which still hold water in September, the town faces naturally through the south-east gate toward the adjacent foothills of Galilee which at this point approach one of their spurs to within a few hundred yards of the mound. Along the plain below these foothills runs the ancient high road from the North to Tell Amr and the Plain of Esdraelon, and the wheels of many centuries have bitten deep furrows in the soft limestone outcrops along its track. The narrow passage between the marshes and the hills is guarded by El Harbaj which thus assumes the rank of a frontier town to any power holding the Plain of Acre north of the Kishon. In early Arab times the mound was encircled by a strong wall and probably boasted a castle, but to-day it is inhabited by no more than 80 souls, whose obvious distaste for hard work is no doubt due to the constant ravages of malaria.

The soundings took the form of a single sectional trench about 20 metres North of the north-west angle of the 'Castle.' The sectional diagram [Pl. III] shows the extent of the cut and the stratigraphical nature of the Tell. The discovery on the first day in the outer 'crust' of 'ledge handles' and 'base ring' were seemed to foreshadow some confusion in the underlying strata; but the appearance of a massive strong-wall dating back to the Late Bronze Age (c. 1500 B.C.), at no greater depth than 1'20 m. from the surface, confirmed the evidence of the sherds and shewed that we had found in El Harbaj that site for which the archaeologist usually seeks in vain, a mound deserted before the beginning of the Iron Age and not re-occupied until the arrival of the Arab conquerors.

The ceramic evidence shewed two distinct strata, if we may except a small percentage of Arab wares on the crust and an occasional fragment which might be dated to the Early Iron Age without bearing witness to any permanent settlement of that date.

(a) At the foot of the strong-wall in C.1 and 2 as also in D.0 just above them [see Pl. III] were found typical specimens of 'base-ring' jugs, white slip wishbone handle bowls, and 'cyma'—or funnel-shaped cups of hard metallic clay [cf. Pl. IV. Nos. 10 and 4]. The painted pottery of this period was finely represented by the fragments of a small pithos [Pl. IV. No. 1] decorated in red and brown with panels shewing two animals heraldically opposed on either side of a palm tree (a motif found at Ascalon last year in pottery of the same date but in a different paint); the rim was also painted on the top with streaks of alternate red and brown. Other painted fragments were very scarce in this cut; those discovered had simple bands of red, black, or brown and in one case of dark muddy blue [Pl. IV. Nos. 5—9].

The unpainted wares were also curiously scarce, being represented largely by the base rings of moderate sized jugs.

(b) The stratum below this formed an abrupt contrast. All base rings vanished and flat-bottomed vases appeared with ledge handles, 'comb faced' red pottery, and 'porridge' wares with raised indented bands. The milieu, in fact, was that of the Early Bronze Age c. 2500 B.C., though it no doubt lasted down to Late Canaanite times.

The chief types of this period appeared to be the ledge-handled flat-bottomed vessel, often covered with an unequal brownish yellow wash, and a peculiar very large flat dish or straight-sided bowl with rim sharply upturned and occasionally also curved inwards towards the centre. Fragments of these two latter types were extremely frequent and shewed great variety both in manufacture and material. The best fabric was a hard smooth brick-red clay which was found later at Tell el Kussis [see Pl. VI, fig. b, Nos. 9, 11, &c.]. In addition to these types two specimens with lug handles were found in B.1 and B.2, while the bottom of A produced a fragment of small loop handled juglet (red slip on buff clay).

Finally two fragments in B.1 deserve special notice. The first of these [Pl. IV. No. 3] is the rim of a wide bowl with almost vertical walls. The clay which is light yellow has been covered inside and out with a slip of brownish pigment. The interior colour has been allowed to remain but the external has been altered by firing to a mottled pattern of red and brownish black. Both inside and out this slip has worn through and the original clay appears beneath, but it is noticeable that this has occurred more generally on the interior than on the more hardened outer surface. The second fragment [Pl. IV. No. 2] formed part of the bottom of a small saucer. The clay is redder than that of the last specimen and the exterior has been burnished by pebbling into a high polish. Both fragments have an affinity with the 'pan' pottery of Egypt.

The history of the site as evidenced by its stratification has already been briefly described. The line of the ancient wall [Pl. II, d] can be traced by the small platform which it has formed for itself along the sloping sides of the Tell; and in view of the good condition of that part of it

which we uncovered in our cut it is extremely probable that this wall with its towers and guard rooms is lying intact beneath the surface. That the city itself is in an equally good state of preservation is no doubt too much to expect, but that it contains tablets of the Tell Amarna period is, to say the least, quite possible, and there can be no doubt as we have said above that it presents exceptional opportunities to the excavator.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE IV.

- No. 1. Coarse buff clay with white gritty particles. Rough surface. Lustreless red and brown paint.
- No. 2. Fine yellow clay. Highly burnished polish on exterior only.
- No. 3. Fine light yellow clay. Brown slip with slightly burnished polish, brownish yellow on interior and mottled red and dark brown on exterior face.
- No. 4. Dark grey metallic clay, turning from black to brown. Rough surface.
- No. 5. Badly baked reddish clay. Rough surface. Lustreless vermilion and bluish black paint.
- No. 6. Coarse badly-baked buff clay. Rough surface. Lustreless red and black paint.
- No. 7. Coarse buff clay. Rough surface. Lustreless red paint.
- No. 8. Coarse buff clay. Rough surface. Lustreless brown paint.
- No. 9. Coarse badly baked clay. Rough surface. Lustreless brown paint.
- Nos. 10 and 11. Dark slaty grey clay covered with smooth white slip. Lustreless brown paint. The handle does not fit to the bowl.

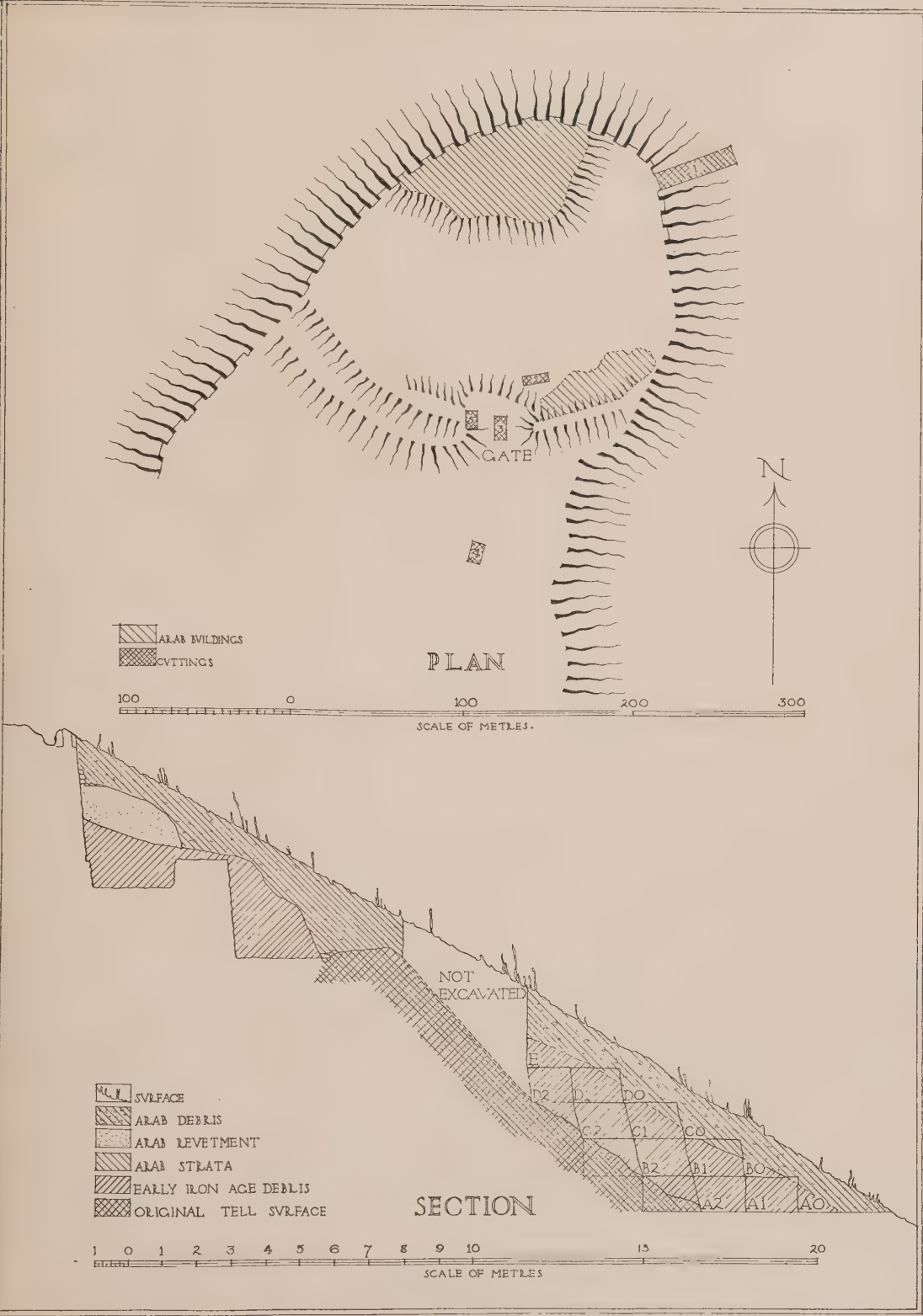
TELL AMR

(With Plates V and VIa.)

The Tell stands in an imposing position in the mouth of the pass from Esdraelon into the Plain of Acre. It is between twenty and thirty metres in height and is almost circular on the summit (diameter c. 80 metres). On the North and East its sides descend steeply to the level of the river (the angle is c. 32°) but on the South and South-West this fall rapidly decreases and at the point where the gateway gives access to the interior the ground slopes gradually to a saddle which connects it with a second smaller and entirely natural hillock overlooking the Nazareth-Haifa main road. Within the gate [Pl. V] the ground rises gradually on all sides to the circumference and on the northern edge there can be discerned the tumbled remains of a small building of the Arab period. With this exception and a slightly elevated vallum at the gateway, the rim (as it were) of the saucer is quite flat, shewing no signs of a rampart except where a line of Turkish trenches made during the war have formed for themselves a low parapet on the side facing the sea. Generally speaking, the Tell gives the impression of concealing an ancient walled stronghold or frontier post and it is therefore all the more surprising to find that this idea is completely illusory.

The soundings took principally the form of a sectional trench three metres broad taken from the top to a point over half way down the slope of the eastern flank, where the gradient began to fall away more easily to the Plain. The sectional diagram [Pl. V, b] will indicate the method pursued, and the general results of the sounding. The absence of any trace of walls during our excavations seemed at first to be ended by the appearance of large stones (49 × 33 × 20 cms.) at a depth of two metres below the seven metre peg [see the section in Pl. V]. From this point upwards and inwards could be traced a fairly clear sloping deposit of hard clay full and, in some parts, crowded with stones and pebbles of all sizes and shapes. The suggestion was that of a revetment to a city wall; but as this deposit was traced still further up the hillside, till it disappeared under the later Arab parapet, it became obvious that it represented the remains of early house walls which had been built on the north and east sides of the Tell presumably to catch the sea breeze which rarely fails to refresh the plain from late forenoon to sunset. This conclusion was confirmed by the presence of sherds of the Early Iron Age (c. 1000—500 B.C.) throughout the deposit and by the discovery of a three-legged mortar of the usual basalt type four metres below the summit of the Tell.

It remained to discover what traces of ancient occupation crowned the top plateau and to what date its gateway could be assigned. The result was once more surprising. Soundings in the 'saucer' and in the centre of the gateway [Pl. V] brought the hill surface to light at depths of 2.20 metres and 2.50 metres respectively. In the former a stone floor bearing Arab



TELL AMR : PLAN AND SECTION

glazed ware immediately overlay the marl. In the latter a few coarse sherds (c. 800 B.C.) were found under a loose pebble layer (a roadway?) 60 cm. deep and 60 cm. below the surface. To make assurance doubly sure, a third sounding was made on the saddle to the South of the gate. Here the surface was found at 1.60 metres. Finally a section was taken of the West side of the gateway vallum to a depth of three metres. It revealed the fact that with the exception of inferior Arab wall foundations on the top, the rampart was composed of loosely packed earth and had no sustaining wall on the outside. The pottery found agreed as to stratification and character with that discovered in the centre of the gateway.

The pottery in the principal trench, after an initial deposit of glazed and painted Arab wares, which varied from two to three metres in depth over the whole site, presents a homogeneous character from top to bottom. Of the characteristic Base Ring ware of the Late Bronze Age one piece alone was found at the foot of the 'village deposit.' Its presence cannot invalidate the overwhelming evidence of the other sherds.

(a) *Lamps* were of the usual Iron Age pinched type, but distinctly late in point of shape. A fragment from A.0 (buff clay) was roughly flattened along its base and the interior was markedly shallow. A second found four metres below the summit of the Tell was shaped like a shallow saucer with a flat circular base. A more normal (rounded) fragment of a third lamp came from the same stratum.

(b) *Juglets* (A.2, A.1, D) were of the rounded type made of red clays lightly pebble-burnished in a vertical sense and furnished with a single loop handle and circular mouth.

(c) *Saucers*. The better class were made of buff coloured clay, on which a red, almost vermilion, slip was applied and in some cases pebble burnished. The application of the slip was very uneven and has either worn through or failed originally to cover the entire surface. The exterior was often left untreated, the slip only extending as far as the rim.

(d) *Larger vessels* are represented by the typical Hellenistic amphora of hard, almost white, clay shewing a sharp metallic angle at the shoulder (this type was found in A.0 and, generally, just below the Arab crust), by large bowls, generally treated with a red slip on the rim, and by ruder double-handled cooking pots of chocolate coloured clay having a slight raised flange running round outside, and under, the rim.

(e) *Painted fragments* were very rare. The rude and native wares shewed bands of brown or black paint on the untreated surface of the pot. One fragment of a large vessel had thick concentric bands of red on a reddish clay. More elaborate vases shewed distinct affinities with, if not ultimate derivation from, Cyprus. [See Pl. VI, Nos. 4, 6, 7.]

(f) The 'Cypriot' or 'Phoenician' character of these finer painted wares, so completely different from those called 'Philistine' on the sites of Ascalon, Ain Shems and the Shephelah was marked further by the presence of a miniature bottle of Cypriot Iron Age type with globular body and slender pipe neck decorated with concentric black circles on the natural red clay of the vase (D.2). The neck of a jug with a trefoil lip (A.1 red slip on buff yellow clay) pointed in the same direction.

To sum up, the stratigraphical and ceramic evidence of this site indicates with some precision:—

(a) that the first inhabitants came to it during the Early Iron Age and continued living on it till Hellenistic times (c. 300 B.C.).

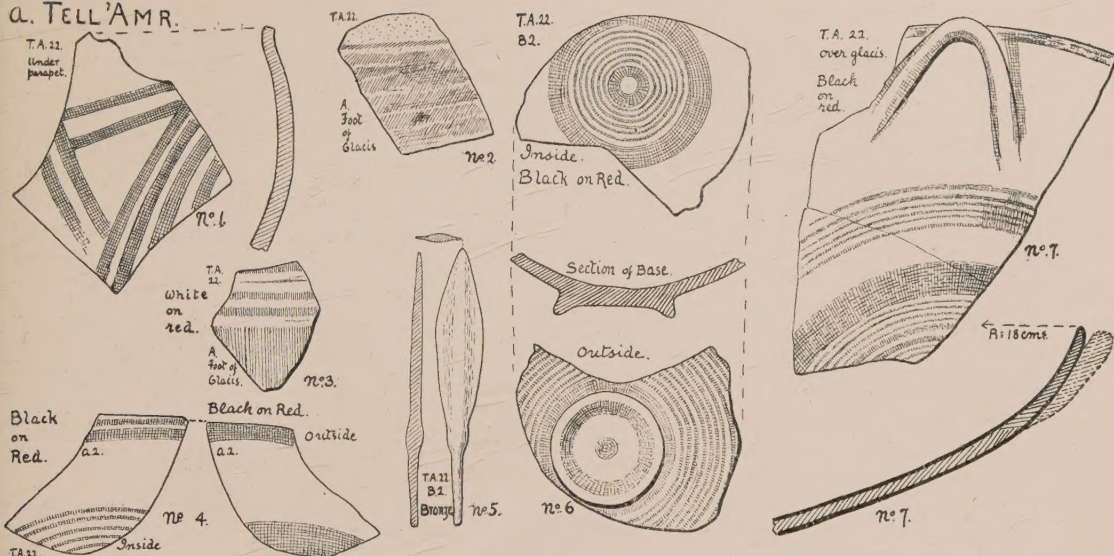
(b) that their occupation took the form not of a walled town or military settlement but of an unimportant unwallled village whose houses clustered chiefly on the seaward slopes of the Tell.

(c) that after a long period of abandonment which lasted through the Roman and Byzantine domination the site was re-occupied by Arab settlers who built their village facing not North but South and provided a gateway opening towards the Plain of Esdraelon.

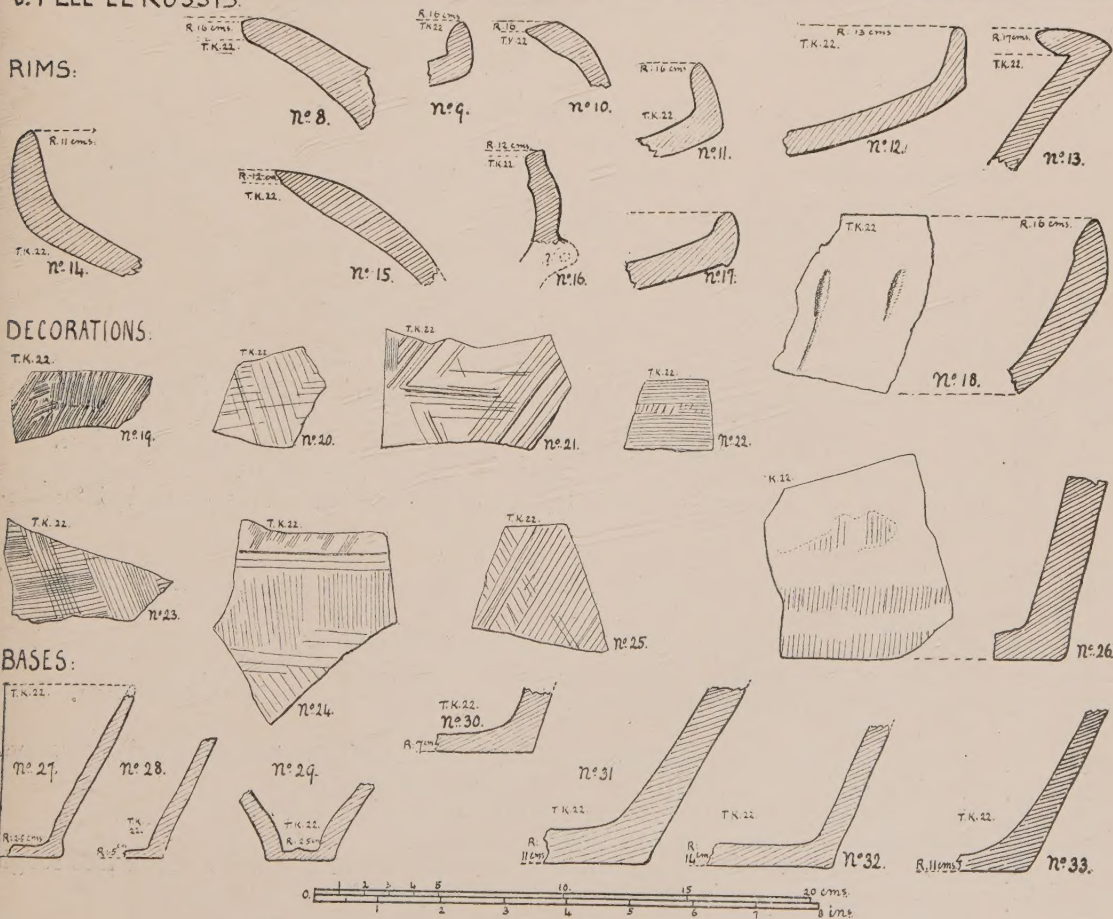
DESCRIPTION OF PLATE VIa.

- No. 1. Badly baked reddish clay, dark brown on interior face. Rough surface. Lustreless black paint.
- No. 2. Fine pale yellow clay. Smooth surface. Lustreless dark brown paint.
- No. 3. Dark grey metallic clay, brown on exterior face and smooth surface. Lustreless white paint.
- No. 4. Fine red clay with slightly burnished polish. Lustreless black paint.
- No. 5. Leaf shaped bronze arrow-head with straight tang and slight centre rib.
- No. 6. Fine red clay as No. 4. Lustreless black paint.
- No. 7. As Nos. 4 and 6.

a. TELL'AMR.



G. TELL EL KUSSÎS.



(a) TELL AMR; (b) TELL EL KUSSÎS. POTTERY TYPES (1922)

TELL EL KUSSÎS

(With Plate VI*b*.)

This Tell though smaller than Amr, bears a curious resemblance to it since in each case the extremity nearest the river is markedly higher than that at the opposite end [see photograph on Pl. II]. In Tell el Kussîs the western bluff shews the chalky limestone rocks a few metres only from the summit: indeed it is doubtful whether there is a deposit of more than 2.0 metres of earth over the whole site. The Tell is, in fact, an outlying spur of the Galilean foothills; it could have maintained a small block house and its commanding position suggested that it must have done so, but here as in the case of Tell Amr reasonable expectation was disappointed.

Soundings were made at the extremity of the eastern slope and on the eastern side of the western bluff: in each case the rock was encountered within a depth of two metres. One period of occupation only was found to be represented, that of the Early Bronze Age, which as we have seen, formed the lowest stratum at El Harbaj. The 'ledge'-handle, the flat dish with upturned edge, hard red 'comb faced' pottery, and wares covered with the usual brownish wash were all found here in some quantity. [See Pl. VI*b*.] Loop handles were not unknown, but no ring bases occurred, all the fragments found having flat bottoms whether they were jars of large size or as in three instances smaller and more fragile vessels. It should be added that while the great majority of the fragments were hand-made a few shewed signs of having been built up on a primitive probably hand-turned wheel.

The remains of a rough masonry wall was found in the lower cut at a depth of .50 metres from the surface; inside this and slightly above the level of the remaining stones was a floor of beaten earth, which no doubt belonged to the same house. There were no signs of the destruction of this early village nor were any seen above the contemporary stratum at Harbaj.

DESCRIPTIONS OF PLATE VI*b*, Nos. 8—33.

- No. 8. Drab clay with white gritty particles, dark grey at centre and buff on surface. Rough surface. Uneven lustreless brown wash.
- No. 9. Fine red clay with slight burnished polish.
- No. 10. Clay and wash as in No. 8.
- No. 11. Fine red clay covered with a smooth brown slip.
- No. 12. Light grey clay with gritty particles. Exterior slightly burnished.
- No. 13. Dark brown clay with smooth brown surface.
- No. 14. Coarse reddish clay full of gritty particles. Rough surface.
- No. 15. Coarse reddish clay turning to yellow on exterior face. Rough surface.
- No. 16. Clay and wash as Nos. 8 and 10.
- No. 17. Fine light red clay. Smooth red slip on interior face. Rough exterior surface.
- No. 18. Coarse buff clay. Rough surface. Shallow incised decorations.
- No. 19. Hard dark red clay with gritty particles. Rough surface. Strongly marked 'comb-face' decoration.
- No. 20. As No. 19.
- No. 21. Very hard dark brown clay, brick red on exterior face. Rough surface. 'Comb-face' decoration.
- No. 22. Hard red clay. Rough surface. 'Comb-face' decoration.
- No. 23. Hard reddish buff clay. Rough surface. 'Comb-face' decoration.
- No. 24. Hard bright red clay. Rough surface. Very slight 'comb-face' decoration.
- No. 25. As No. 24.
- No. 26. Hard black clay, bright red on exterior face. Rough surface. 'Comb-face' decoration.
- No. 27. Reddish brown clay. Traces of a red slip on exterior face.
- No. 28. Hard red clay. Slightly burnished polish on exterior surface.
- No. 29. Hard bright red clay. Rough surface.
- No. 30. Hard reddish clay, smooth red exterior face. Bottom of base and exterior face rough.
- No. 31. Coarse reddish clay with gritty particles. Rough surface.
- No. 32. Very hard coarse red clay. Rough surface.
- No. 33. Clay and wash as in Nos. 8, 10, and 16.

It may not be inapposite to summarise briefly the record of 17 days work in and around the Plain of Acre, and the results which it brought to light. For two days out of the 17, 12 Bedwin from a neighbouring camp were employed at Tell Amr. The greater part of the work was carried out by four skilled Egyptian workmen with one Egyptian labourer to assist them.

Tell Amr was examined from September 3rd to September 12th, when one man was left for further probing, while the remaining four went daily to El Harbaj, which was examined from September 13th to September 18th. Two local boys and one girl worked for part of this time. Tell el Kussis occupied the 19th and 20th. No local labour was available. Camp was struck on the morning of the 21st. The total cost of all charges was £58.

In the course of this rapid and inexpensive survey, it has been found possible to probe the secrets of three Tells and bring the outline of their history to light. It has been possible to prove conclusively that Tell Amr and Tell el Kussis were never (as might have been supposed) opposing frontier posts of contemporary and perhaps hostile kingdoms, since the one belonged to the Early Bronze, and the other to the Early Iron Age only. It has disposed completely of any possibility of identifying Tell Amr with Harosheth of the Gentiles, and as El Harithiyeh itself is a village of very recent origin (the rock can be seen cropping up in the middle of it) we are forced to look elsewhere for the capital of Sisera. Finally it has revealed the existence of a lightly buried city of the late Bronze Age, which, while it may or may not prove to be Harosheth itself, belongs to the same date and may well contain correspondence tablets from neighbouring cities like Acre or Megiddo.

NEWS AND NOTES :

THE EXCAVATIONS AT BEISAN BY THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA (SEASON 1922)

The excavation of the important site of Beth-Shean by the University Museum of Pennsylvania, which was begun towards the end of June, 1921, and continued for about four months, was resumed in April of this year. The work is again under the direction of Dr. C. S. Fisher, to whose courtesy we are indebted for permission to publish these notes with the accompanying photographs. The results of the excavations in 1921 have been described in the *Museum Journal of Philadelphia*, March, 1922, pp. 32-45, and it is only necessary to recall in outline the work of the preliminary season.

The Canaanite city which in the Bible is called Beth-Shean is believed to have been confined to the mound, now called Tell-el-Husn, which rises above the fertile valley of the River Jalud, at the eastern extremity of the plain of Esdraelon, overlooking a long stretch of the Jordan valley. During the Hellenistic Roman and Byzantine periods, under the names of Nysa and Scythopolis, the city largely extended its boundaries in every direction. The latest city-wall had a length of two miles, and was carried across the Jalud so as to include the slopes which rise to the North of the river.

As was natural, the season of 1921 was devoted to the Tell, which proved to have been continuously occupied from at all events the earliest Canaanite period till early Arab times. A wide trench was opened in the upper slope of the Tell, and was carried down to the early Canaanite stratum, (c. 2000 B.C.) without, however, reaching the natural rock surface. After this preliminary sounding, the work of excavating the summit of the Tell and a portion of its lower terraces was begun, with the result that on the lower terraces the Arab and Byzantine levels were uncovered and part of the underlying Roman masonry brought to light, while on the summit the Arab level, which had consisted of streets and small houses, was cleared away. The removal of this level revealed the foundations of a Byzantine church which appeared to have been built over a rectangular basilica of Roman or early Byzantine date. The church is almost circular in plan, with an apse towards the East, its diameter being about 36 metres. The foundations of the walls, however, hardly give the impression that a dome of such a span can have been supported by them; it is not improbable, therefore, that there was an open space in the centre of the church.

The most interesting find of the 1921 season was a basalt stele, inscribed with a hieroglyphic inscription of Sety I. Unfortunately, it has been re-used and is badly weathered. During the present year the difficult task of deciphering the inscription has been carried out by Mr. A. Rowe.

The publication of the stele, may, we understand, be shortly looked for in the *Museum Journal* of Philadelphia; and it is safe to predict that it will prove to be an interesting contribution to the history of the relations between Egypt and the peoples of Canaan.

On the resumption of work in April of this year, it was decided to excavate a portion of the northern cemetery, which lies on the slope facing southward above the Jalud, opposite the Tell. That an abundance of tombs existed in this area was suggested by the very large number of holes which pitted the hill-side. The tombs proved to be even more numerous than was expected; in a strip about 50 metres wide, no less than 130 tombs and graves were excavated in about two months. In form they range from plain surface graves to elaborate tombs, consisting of a central hall with radiating chambers, cut in the hill-side. The diversity of periods is even more remarkable; in the same small area are found Early Canaanite circular chambers, resembling cave-dwellings, side by side with Byzantine arcosolia and many other types representing the intervening periods. When, in due course, the whole cemetery comes to be excavated, material will doubtless be available for a complete analysis of the type of tomb prevailing in each period. The rock into which these tombs are cut is a soft limestone marl, which, especially towards the lower part of the slope, crumbles easily. It is no wonder, therefore, that a large number of the tombs, cut close in one upon the other as they were, with sometimes only a foot or two between the roof of one and the floor of another, should have collapsed. In most cases, however, only a portion of each tomb had slipped down to the lower level, and the original plan could be determined. It is a regrettable fact that, with hardly an exception, every tomb had been entered and looted by tomb-robbers. Nevertheless, a large amount of pottery of all the periods represented in the cemetery, a fine collection of glass vessels, together with a considerable number of scarabs, coins, and other small objects which had been overlooked by the looters, remained to reward the excavators. A number of sarcophagi have been found, both of stone and of clay, of which the latter especially promise to be of great archaeological interest.

On the crest above the cemetery a strip of the outer wall, which enclosed the whole city in its later days, has been dug to its foundations, and on the same level an octagonal tower, forming the north-west angle of the wall has been cleared.

Towards the end of June, the excavation of the cemetery was suspended and work was resumed on the Tell. It will be remembered that on the summit and part of the lower terrace the Arab level, which lies close under the surface of the Tell, had been laid bare in 1921. A considerable area, however, remained unexcavated, especially upon the western side of the Tell, which forms a slope between the terrace and the summit and affords the natural means of access from the one to the other. The clearance of the upper level in this area was continued till nearly the end of the season, uncovering the entire Arab stratum, which consists mainly of small houses and does not appear to possess any features of exceptional interest. Traces of the Byzantine and Roman strata are visible below the Arab walls; in the foreground there may be seen a paved street of good workmanship probably dating from the Roman period, over which later walls and thoroughfares have been constructed. This street winds gradually up the slope from the great gate at the north-western angle of the city wall to the summit of the Tell.

During the last few weeks of the season further excavations were made on the summit, in the area occupied by the apse and north-eastern section of the round church. It is somewhat surprising that no trace remains at this point of any important Roman building, since the previous discovery of large column drums and other architectural fragments had suggested the likelihood of finding the summit of the Tell occupied by the foundations of a temple, or other large edifice. The foundations of the round church in this area are now seen to cut through a level of mud-brick buildings, the walls of which are substantially built and coated with plaster. This stratum appears to be remarkably well preserved; some of the walls remain standing to a height of ten or twelve feet; a flight of steps, of the same material as the wall, leads from the floor level of one room to what may well have been the level of the roof, and between two of the rooms an arched doorway runs through the brick wall. The excavations of next year will, no doubt, furnish the materials for determining the precise date of this mud-brick stratum, and its relation to other buildings on the Tell.

The foregoing notes will have made it clear that the past season's work has been of exceptional interest; there is every reason for being confident that the season of 1923 will be no less fruitful in important results.